



Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department and Town of Los Gatos Win the Helen Putnam Award and Community Policing Award

The Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department and the Town of Los Gatos have been awarded the prestigious International Community Policing Award by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence within the Public Safety category by the League of California Cities for the “Alive...and Loving Life” community initiative.

The “Alive... and Loving Life” initiative is a 22 month old community-wide effort to address issues of youth and high-risk behavior which focused community efforts following the death of Los Gatos High School student, Eric Quesada, in an alcohol related crash. This collaborative initiative involving both youth and adults in Los Gatos has drawn together the Police Department, school districts, Town government, recreation, non-profit, faith and community organizations, businesses and many individuals. The initiative has resulted in a number of projects including Adopt-a-Cop, Police Party Response Guidelines, Town Youth Commission, Under 21 Club, a summer music series and Freshman and Parent skills day at Los Gatos High School.

Youth and adult representatives of the Town traveled to the League of California Cities conference for three days to attend the award announcement, present the project to adult and youth leaders from other cities and share ideas. Five high school students, representing both “Alive... and Loving Life” and the Town’s Youth Commission, designed and built a booth display which graphically represented the initiative. The Town

and the Police Department were presented with the Helen Putnam Award of Excellence in Public Safety at this conference in September of 2004.

Chief Seaman, Captain Forrest and Sergeant Morgan, of the Police Department attended the International Association of Police Chiefs conference in Los Angeles, where the Police Department was presented with the International Community Policing Award in November of 2004.

For more information regarding either award, contact Sergeant Joe Deprima at 408-354-6843. Photographs from the League of California Cities conference and the International Association of Police Chiefs conference are available from the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department; contact the Office of the Chief, Ms. Irene Shrier, at 408-354-6841.